MARVEL

92

DEFALCO
FRENZ
BUSCEMA

THE DAUGHTER OF SPIDER-MAN®

SPIDER-GIRL®

THE SHADOW OF EVIL

The daughter of the original Spider-Man, May "Mayday" Parker has inherited her father's amazing powers. Possessing the proportionate strength, speed, and agility of a spider, as well as the ability to cling to walls, she now follows in his web-lines! Stan Lee presents...

SPIDER-GIRL

PREVIOUSLY

Nancy Lu, one of **May Parker's** classmates, is revealed as a mutant with telekinetic powers. She decides to go off with the **X-People** to learn how to control her abilities.

Though **Spider-Girl** knows that **Normie Osborn** now possesses the **Venom symbiote,** she doesn't know that he has been secretly taking it out at night--

--or what happened when he invited **Phil Urich** over for a visit.

Spider-Girl recently joined the new **Avengers** and other heroes against **Loki,** the Asgardian god of evil, and the incredible **Hulk** in a battle that resulted in many serious injuries.

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HOO-HA! Your name is May "Mayday" Parker.

You are the daughter of Spider-Man.

There's nothing like running the gauntlet at Avengers Compound to get the adrenaline pumping.

Fifteen minutes ago you were barely conscious as you slogged through a mountain of books in the school library.

Luckily, that's when Stinger called and rescued you from what was shaping up to be a terminally dull afternoon.

Yeah, you know you're only delaying the inevitable--

--but hanging with Earth's mightiest heroes is much more fun than hunkering down with homework.

THE MEANS!

That was certainly refreshing.

Hey, Mr. Jarvis! How's it going?

It is not my place to criticize, miss, but I do wish you would follow the correct procedure when entering the grounds.

You were given an ***Avengers Priority Card*** when you became a reserve member for a reason.

If you swipe it at the front gate, you can avoid activating the Compound's defense system.

B-but I enjoy the gauntlet!

Our stun-blasters and detaining arms are not toys, miss.

They will all have to be reset, and that requires hours of extensive maintenance.

Gosh! I...I never really thought about the guys who have to service those gizmos.

No one ever does.

I can't tell you how many hours of overtime they used to put in whenever ***Hercules*** came home from a party.

--if I didn't consider you a *real* ***Avenger.***

Stinger!

W-what happened to your leg?

I suffered a hairline fracture during our recent battle with ***Loki*** and the ***Hulk.***

Look, Mr. Jarvis-- I'm ***sorry!*** I really am. I was just sort of winging it. I still think of myself more as a ***visitor--***

--than an actual ***part*** of the team.

Really? Well, I never would have invited you to this ***meeting--***

Walked on it for almost a week before I had it x-rayed.

I wasn't the only one sidelined. ***Bluestreak, Freebooter, Thunderstrike*** and ***American Dream*** are all out on temporary leave.

That's why we had to call in some ***reserve Avengers.***

Spider-Girl, please allow me to introduce ***Blacklight, Earth Sentry*** and ***Coal Tiger.***

Welcome aboard, sister.

It's a pleasure to meet you.

Charmed, my dear.

Right back at you, guys.

So ***why*** are we here, ***JZ?***

If ***Loki's*** back, I'm hitting the ***beach*** with ***American Dream.***

Nobody ever tells me anything. I just know it's something big.

Mainframe said he'd fill us in as soon as you got here.

*Now that we are **finally** assembled, I can call this meeting to order...*

This footage was shot earlier today, and we've done everything in our power to prevent it from reaching the public.

A major super-menace appears to have resurfaced.

*I'm sure you have all heard of **MAGNETO**, the mutant master of magnetism.*

Uhhhh...

Anybody got some spare ***sun-block?***

He hasn't been active for years.

I just assumed he was ***dead.***

Yeah, that happens a lot with guys like him--

--but they always seem to get ***better.***

We cannot confirm if this is the **real** Magneto or an imposter.

We only know that someone wearing his **costume** and employing his **powers**--

--allegedly robbed the Broadway Bank on the corner of Main and 37th.

Robbery seems a little out of character for a would-be world conqueror.

Perhaps he has funding issues.

Conquest can be very pricey.

Besides, according to my dad--the original Juggernaut--Magneto never really wanted to control the world.

He just wanted to make it safe for mutants--

--by, *uhhhhh*, eliminating mankind.

Whatever! We've been in touch with the **X-People** and **X-Men**, who are also putting every available resource on the case.

Whether he is the original or not, **this Magneto** must be considered extremely dangerous.

If you spot him, contact Avengers Compound **immediately**.

Do not attempt to confront him ALONE!

Finishing a boring *research paper* suddenly has a lot more appeal.

Moments after the meeting concludes...

What do you say, Stinger? Is this Magneto *real* or *Memorex?*

Your guess is as good as mine, but do yourself a favor and follow Mainframe's orders.

You got a minute?

Sure, what's up?

Street crime has been on a steady increase ever since ***Loki*** and the ***Hulk*** put so many heroes in the hospital.

I've been monitoring the local police reports, and I came across something interesting.

A gang of well-known hijackers and burglars was recently found beaten half to death--

--on the grounds of the ***Osborn Corporation.***

W-who did this--?

No one knows.

As you can see from these mug shots, the so-called "*victims*" all have long criminal records. They refused to talk to the police...

...though one of them let something slip about being attacked by some kind of *monster.*

If I remember correctly, ***Norman Osborn*** was the original ***Green Goblin,*** and he had a long history with ***Spider-Man.***

I assumed you'd want to look into this matter on your own.

Yeah. Thanks for the *heads-up.*

What have you *done,* Normie?

A few weeks ago, ***Normie Osborn*** was attacked by the ***Venom Symbiote***-- an alien creature with fantastic powers that usually controls its host.

Normie later claimed that they had come to an understanding, and he decided to hold on to it.

You kept his secret-- from your ***parents***, the ***Avengers*** and ***everyone***-- because you *trusted* Normie.

You believed him when he said that he could keep the creature in check.

What if you were wrong?

What if the Symbiote has become dominant?

What if it is manipulating Normie?

Answer your phone, Normie--!

ANSWER your phone!

RRRRRRING!

INCOMING...
S-GIRL
(UNAVAILABLE #)

RRRRRRING!

CLICK

No answer.

Is he too *occupied*, or is he simply *avoiding* you?

You recall that your ***Uncle Phil*** was going to visit Normie last night--

--but he doesn't answer, either.

Coincidence?

Or still another cause for concern?

Unfortunately, you need to get back to school and pick up your books...

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

What's with the heavy tomes, May? You going out for the weight-lifting team?

These are only half the books I need for Mrs. Winterhalter's research paper.

You're actually using *books?*

SOCIOLOGY

We modern students use a little thing I call the ***Internet.***

We ***google*** the topic...and do a quick *copy and paste* job.

Sounds a lot like *plagiarism,* Davida.

Not if you assemble the material in your own way and credit every source.

LOGY TEXT

My paper was in the printer within two hours.

I'll be happy with a "***C***", but wouldn't be surprised if I scored a "***B***".

Yeah, well, I'm hoping for an "***A***".

LIBRARY

Suit yourself... but there are better uses for my time.

Maybe Davida's right.

Maybe you should take a shortcut and go the Internet route.

You could devote the extra time to getting the lowdown on Normie or hunting for Magneto or...

Uh-oh!

Your ***spider-sense*** is suddenly tingling, warning you of ***danger--***

SOCIOL

--or merely noting a nearby *source of power.*

Nancy!

Hey, Nancy--it's *me!*

DEET DEET DEET

Nancy Lu is a *telekinetic* who used to attend Midtown High--

--but things got wonky when the other students discovered she was a mutant.

How's it going? I haven't seen you since you transferred to your new school.

Yeah, things happened quickly, and I really didn't get a chance to say goodbye.

Let me help you with these books.

Nancy switched to a school for "*gifted students*"-- a special academy run by the ***X-People,*** where mutants are taught how to hone their powers.

How is the old gang at Midtown High?

Pretty much the same.

I...I'm sorry for the way some of them treated you after they learned your... *secret.*

Water under the bridge. I don't really blame them for zooing out. I was pretty freaked myself.

KEE-RASSH!

W-what the--?!

T-that came from the ***bank*** on the corner.

May, I...I just remembered that I have to be somewhere.

I... I'll *call* you.

Please ***do.***

I've gotta run, too.

See you!

Later!

You race for the nearest deserted alley--

--crawl to the roof--

--and secure your library books as safely and securely as possible.

Then you quickly slip into costume, and it's *web-swinging time*--

--with a slight *twist.*

W-Who are you?

I'm one of the *X-People.*

Sort of.

To be honest, I'm still a *student trainee.*

They call me *Push.*

You instantly recognize *Nancy*... and you wonder if she can also identify you.

I assume you're here on the great *Magneto* hunt.

Yeah. They sent everyone out with miniature *Cerebros,* which can locate nearby mutants.

There's a good chance he's hitting the bank on the corner.

Really--?!

"You think--?!"

RUN, puny humans!

Flee before my irresistible *magnetic power!*

I cannot be *stopped!*

I cannot be *defeated!*

Mankind no longer deserves to rule the Earth.

The day of the *mutant* is at--*HEYYY!*

W-what's happening to my money?!

You should be ashamed of yourself, Magneto.

You once caused entire nations to tremble, and now you're reduced to petty theft.

Okay, so maybe I hit a bad patch... but I'll be back on top before you know it.

Y-you'd better return that cash before I get angry.

I...I am the most powerful MUTANT of all!

You would be well-advised to *flee* before my irresistible--

what the?!

Careful, Maggie! It almost sounded like you were about to repeat yourself.

THWIPPPP!

I always thought you master villains came with an endless supply of *sound bytes.*

KWOOOM!

Spider-Girl!

I should have known.

Y-you recognize me?

I...I *read* a lot.

I'm ***warning*** you to keep ***away*** from me--

--or I'll ***bury*** you beneath every metal object in the area.

Uhhhh...

Yeah.

Sure.

Don't worry, Spider-Girl! I can shield you from Magneto's attack.

THUNK!

THUNK!

THUNK!

With a *metal* mailbox--?!

Well, it was the largest object I could lift.

Listen, Push, there's something about this guy that isn't--*oh, no!*

He just launched another *attack!*

You girls are trying my patience.

Perhaps I should test your ability to SURVIVE!

I can't get you out of the way in time, Push. Stay close to me--

--and I'll cover us with a *web-shield!*

I-if he had hurled those cars directly at us--!

He could have easily killed us.

Why didn't he?

Great! He's trying to escape while we smother the fire he caused.
It doesn't matter. My pocket Cerebro will keep-- odd!
It must have been damaged during the battle, because it isn't registering him.
DEET DEET DEET
It isn't--?!
It doesn't matter. I need to alert the X-People immediately.
Hold off a second! I'm pretty sure we've been fighting an imposter-- a goofball I fought in the past who is relatively harmless!
Relatively HARMLESS?!
Okay, so maybe things got a little out of hand...
I need you to work with me, Push.
The real Magneto used to take over military bases and sink submarines. This guy could barely handle a couple of teenagers.
I'm sure the authorities have already contacted the Avengers, the X-People and every other costumed clown in the tri-state area.
They'll tear this poor loser apart. We could be his only chance for survival.
W-what if you're mistaken?
I'm not.
Nancy's face hardens and her gaze turns razor-sharp as she weighs options, considers consequences--
--and slowly comes to a decision.
So...how do we track this guy?

Follow me! I'm pretty sure I know where to find our faux Magneto.

If my hunch is correct, his real name is *Charlie Phillips*, and he created a harness that gives him *magnetic powers.*

And if your hunch is *wrong...*

I'd rather not go there.

Something else you should know about Charlie--he always intended to be on *our* side--but he kind of screwed things up.

This is where he used to work. I can sense him inside...

ALL WALKERS ELECTI

Hey, Charlie!

This is Spider-Girl. You need to surrender before a few thousand angry X-People come a'knocking.

Th-there is no Charlie here.

I am MAGNETO, the mutant master of magnetism!

Behold my limitless power!

I cannot be stopped!

I cannot be defeated!

Charlie, you're back to repeating yourself.

I'm guessing you studied some old news footage and memorized everything the real Magneto said.

You need to stop this nonsense before someone gets hurt.

I-it *isn't* nonsense! You're in serious *danger.*

I...I could kill you with a casual *thought.*

You'd better *leave* before I lose my temper.

We're not going anywhere.

There's enough strife between humans and mutants without some big phony adding to it.

I...I am not a PHONY!

You want to see a real *mutant* in action?

WATCH and LEARN--!

YEOW!

Y-you two have ruined everything. Haven't you been following the news?

The criminals are taking over because the *Hulk* put a few dozen super heroes out of commission.

The city's in bad shape! It needs new heroes!

That's all I want to be-- A HERO!

I just needed some money to live on.

A temporary loan so that I could fight crime and protect the innocent.

I would have paid it all back... *eventually.*

We can still make this work.

How's about cutting me some slack?

What do you say?

Sorry, Charlie...

Ain't gonna happen.

KAA-ZAKKKKKK!

The area is soon swarming with authority figures, and some are *far* from happy...

*What were you **thinking**, Spider-Girl? You were supposed to call for backup.*

What's the big deal, Mainframe? He wasn't the real Magneto.

That's not the point. You violated protocol, disobeyed a direct order and might have endangered innocent lives.

*Give me your **Avengers Priority Card.** Your reserve status is suspended pending a formal hearing.*

Overreact much?

*You just don't get it. The **Avengers** are not a social club.*

*Lives are at stake! We need **team players**... not **mavericks**.*

I repeat... *he **wasn't** the real Magneto.*

Jerk.

How you doing, Push?

About as well as you.

I've been ordered to report back to the ***X-Mansion***--

--where I can expect to be *grounded* for the rest of my life.

Sorry I dragged you down with me.

I went in with my eyes open.

I can understand why our superiors are so angry.

The rules are there for a reason. Things could have ended differently...tragically.

Yeah, but I still think we did the right thing.

Me too.

It was a pleasure teaming with you, Spider-Girl.

Right back at you, Push.

You headed home now?

Nope, I have one more errand...

A few hours later...

OSBOR PLAZ

KLICK

Why have you beefed up security, Normie?

Expecting trouble?

Spider-Girl--what a pleasant surprise! I didn't think even you could get past my new system.

If it was designed to keep me out, you got *ripped*.

I heard about the crooks who were assaulted on your loading dock.

Any idea *who* attacked them?

While you're at it, maybe you can tell me why my *Uncle Phil* seems to have disappeared--

--and what's going on with the *Venom Symbiote?*

Why so many questions, May?

Don't you trust me anymore?

Let me reassure you that you have absolutely *nothing* to fear.

I know exactly what I'm doing, and my goals are good.

Do NOT try to HANDLE me, Normie!

Good ends do not justify bad means.

I went against my own conscience and put myself on the line when you decided to keep the Venom Symbiote.

I BELIEVED in you.

Please don't make me regret it.

Everything is going to be just *fine*, May.

You just have to trust me for now.

I...see.

Okay.

Sure.

One last thing, Normie...

If you are into anything bent, please know that *Spider-Girl* will take you *down*--

--and I will HATE you for the rest of my life!

What a day!

You're on the outs with the *Avengers*--

--and *Normie*--

--and you still haven't been able to reach your *Uncle Phil.*

And you still need to finish that paper for Mrs. Winterhalter.

It would be so easy to take Davida's advice.

Yeah...

...like you ever take the *easy* route!

SOCIAL STUDIES A TEXT

SOCIETY

THE END... for now!

MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

SPIDER-GIRL Folks,

"I'm a writer, not a preacher. An entertainer, not a teacher."

Okay, I got that from SPIDER-GIRL #89. I do agree that teenage girls are being brutalized and need to be taught when and how to leave such relationships. A lot of violence occurs when one party in the relationship still thinks the other is in love with him/her and cannot walk away. Teenagers (and adults) have to learn when to walk away.

I love SPIDER-GIRL (issue #89 to be exact), and I'd love to see this series extended beyond issue #100.

One other thing--how old is Mayday?

Tarilate Owei
Tampa, FL

Mayday is currently 16 years old, Tarilate.

Attention: SPIDER-GIRL Bullpen!

SPIDER-GIRL #89 is arguably the greatest comic book issue in the series since the introduction of the character. It ranks up there with INCREDIBLE HULK #420 and THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL graphic novel and deserves to be shipped to every women's shelter across the United States.

Bravo to the creative team!

Kenneth Brannon
Crown Point, IN

SPIDER-GIRL staffers,

I am a longtime comics fan of 30+ years, reading Marvel and the Distinguished Competition for most of my literate life, enjoying both the fantastic and the realistic stories that you have printed throughout the years.

Rarely have I seen a social problem handled so well in a comic book as the continuing saga of Sandra Healy and Howard Kavanaugh. For adult writers, you captured the uncertainty and confusion I have seen teenagers go through when confronted by such a drastic issue as an abusive love, and from Sandra to Courtney to Mayday to Moose, mirrored popular opinions and characterized them in a way that I found as a reader realistic and human.

I am also a first year Master of Social Work student, and would love to be able to use this story as a teaching device or as an illustrative tool for teens and young adults to be able to see how a violent relationship can poison others around it, and different ways people can help, both good and bad. Please compile the story in trade paperback format and make it available to outreach centers and domestic violence hotlines at a discounted price. With this storyline, you have the potential to affect a real chance for someone.

Thanks for listening, and more importantly, thanks for doing what you do--!

Jim Mueller
(via e-mail)

Thank you, Jim...and we'll take your suggestions to the powers-that-be!

Dear Crew,

I love what's being done with MJ in recent issues and in LAST HERO STANDING. It really mirrors a lot of the fear and worry that loved ones go through when a close family member goes off to some dangerous job, and that makes Mary Jane and her relationship with Mayday very empathetic to me. I would love to see more complications come about as a result of this, and--while not always a central fixture to the story--at least have it in the back of Mayday's mind every so often.

Having read the SPIDER-GIRL digests recently, the great thing I loved about the early stories was Mayday's own faulty sense of self. Sure, the people of New York adored her, but to some degree it seemed (at least to her) that Mayday always felt that no matter what she did it was never good enough for her father. She was always trying to "prove" herself, and that made her very susceptible to occasional bouts of self-doubt (nothing as neurotic as what Peter put himself through at her age, though) especially during moments of "innocent mistakes" such as the time when she allowed Angel Face and Funny Face to run free. Much of that has been exorcised with SPIDER-GIRL #60, but we still occasionally see flashes of it, such as after the battle with Aftershock in SPIDER-GIRL #81 or Mayday's conversation with her dad after defeating Funny Face at the police station. Mayday's carrying some feelings of guilt, but she's not exactly "walking on eggshells" anymore around her parents.

Mayday's greatest beauty lies within her, but at the same time I really want to see the insecurities and the little flaws addressed in every issue to give her something to constantly "strive" against. Between Mayday's slipping grades, the guilt she may feel from being away from friends, and other examples like that, I think her mother could provide a lot of good ongoing conflict that approaches the level of angst that Peter was able to provide up to SPIDER-GIRL #60. I'll be watching Mayday's mom with continued interest.

John Koerner
Panama City, FL

As well you should, John!

Dear SPIDER-GIRL group,

Thank you for the tribute to Aunt May in SPIDER-GIRL #90. May Parker deserves all the respect she can get. This book never lets me down, and I was not wrong to save it for last this week. I enjoyed the insightful symbolism used with May's dreams. This was a blast from cover to cover. The Aunt May tribute was unexpected and touched my heart. I must say I was not surprised to see Misery was the villain. The mist in the first panel as Spider-Girl is being punched was a huge tip. Spider-Girl certainly has an entertaining cast of villains. I'm going to guess the Black Tarantula is revealed to be behind the Spider Shoppe next issue.

May Parker...still a Grey Panther after all these years!

John Dillon
Sedalia, MO

Okay, John, now that you know the real owner of the Spider Shoppe--what do you think?

Dear Tom and Staff,

I wanted to let you know how much I love SPIDER-GIRL. I look forward to each month's issue. I just read #90, every page was exciting. It was a great issue, and I hope that we get to see Misery more often, as the twists that she makes May go through have been so full of intrigue and make for a great read.

I loved the "50-foot Spider-Girl" idea, the only problem was that it was over too quickly.

I'm not one who has read comic books for years, in fact SPIDER-GIRL was one of the first I ever picked up which was #57. I've been hooked ever since. Keep coming up with great issues like this one! I'll keep buying and enjoying each one.

Jabon Dix
Springville, Utah

Sounds like a good deal to us, Jabon!

To Tom D. and the whole gang!

First off, I want to tell you guys I really enjoyed SPIDER-GIRL # 90! It was extremely funny even at parts when it came close to being corny. I enjoyed the "itsy-bitsy spider" part, even though we all saw it coming. Well, after reading it on Wednesday, I drove to see my younger brothers over the weekend (I go to college 4 hours away). On the guest bed that was set up for me, they had laid a copy of SPIDER-GIRL DIGEST, Vol. 3: AVENGING ALLIES. Apparently they picked it up at their elementary school book fair and thought of me. It was a very nice gesture, and it made me enjoy the digest even more. Not only are you creating quality stories, but bringing families closer together. Keep up the good work!

Josh Lapin-Bertone
Coral Springs, FL

We hope your younger brothers are also enjoying SPIDER-GIRL, Josh!

Dear Marvel,

I was wondering if Felicity Hardy is ever coming back? She could take her mom's place and be the new Black Cat!! Or, for a little originality, she could be the Crimson Cat and she and May could team up. After all this time she could have been practicing her skills in gymnastics with some guidance from Felicia! What do YOU think?

Mark Mailto

It doesn't really matter what we think, Mark. It depends on what the rest of our READERS think. Well, what's the verdict? Should we bring Felicity back? Let us know, and--

--Thanks for being there!
Tom D.

"Something Osborn This Way Comes--!"
As someone from Peter and Mary Jane's past joins the cast, Mayday finally learns the fate of Phil Urich and Normie Osborn's plans to exploit the Venom Symbiote!

MOLLY LAZER
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF